

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
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R 300810Z JOL 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 423
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 10990

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UR, US, XH, YO, AL
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR ON TITO VISIT, ALBANIA AND SOVIET
LEADERSHIP

SUMMARY: YUGOSLAV AMBASSADOR SMOLE CALLED ON ME JULY 28
FOR A DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL TOPICS INCLUDING TITO'S VISIT,
ALBANIA/, SOVIET LEADERSHIP ISSUES, SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS
AND THE EUROCOMMUNISM DEBATE (THIS LATTER IS TREATED IN
SEPTTEL). END SUMMARY.

1. TITO'S VISIT. IN HIS CALL ON ME AMBASSADOR SMOLE
INFORMED ME THAT PRESIDENT TITO WILL BE ARRIVING IN
MOSCOW ON AUGUST 16 FOR FOUR DAYS OF TALKS WITH SOVIET
LEADERS AND THAT HE WILL GO ON TO BAIKAL FOR FIVE MORE DAYS
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OF VACATION PROBABLY ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER OF THE SOVIET
POLITBURO WHO WILL CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS AT A MORE
LEISURELY PACE. TITO WILL THEN FLY ON TO PYONG YANG
AND PEKING BEFORE RETURNING TO BELGRADE. THE LIKELI-
HOOD IS THAT THE PEKING-BELGRADE LEG WILL BE BROKEN BY A
FUEL STOP, POSSIBLY IN INDIA, BUT THAT NO ADDITIONAL

VISITS ARE PLANNED FOR THIS TRIP.

2. ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS SMOLE SAID THAT THE MAJOR ISSUES ARE ECONOMIC AND MOST PROMINENT AMONG THESE IS THE ISSUE OF SOVIET CREDITS. THERE WILL ALSO BE A TRADITIONAL TOUR D'HORIZON ON THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS MIDDLE EAST, CSCE AND EAST-WEST RELATIONS. HE NOTED THAT THE COMINFORMIST PROBLEM BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND YUGOSLAVIA IS NOW UNDER CONTROL AND THUS WILL NOT BE AN IMPORTANT ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

3. ALBANIA. SMOLE SAID THAT IN GENERAL HE THOUGHT THE ALBANIAN DISPUTE WITH THE PRC WAS RELATED TO HOXHA'S CONCERN THAT THE CHINESE WERE EXPANDING THEIR RELATIONS WITH A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA. HE THOUGHT THE TITO VISIT TO PEKING WAS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN PROMPTING THE ALBANIANS TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE PRC AT THIS TIME. HIS ESTIMATE OF THE ALBANIAN PURPOSE IS THAT HOXHA IS TRYING TO IMPRESS ON THE PRC THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ALBANIAN RELATIONSHIP DURING A PERIOD WHEN THE PRC IS OPENING UP TO THE WORLD. HE SEES NO INDICATION OF ALBANIAN WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS.

4. SOVIET LEADERSHIP. SMOLE SPECULATED ON THE VARIOUS POSSIBLE CHOICES FOR FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SUPREME SOVIET. HE THOUGHT
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THAT THERE WERE BASICALLY THREE POSSIBILITIES FOR BREZHNEV'S NUMBER ONE DEPUTY AS CHIEF OF STATE. IN THE FIRST SCENARIO KOSYGIN WOULD MOVE INTO THE POSITION AND SHCHERBITSKIY WOULD LEAVE THE UKRAINE FIRST SECRETARY POSITION TO REPLACE KOSYGIN AS PREMIER. THE SECOND POSSIBILITY WAS THAT GROMYKO WOULD TAKE THE POSITION ALTHOUGH HE WOULD CONTINUE TO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO (APPARENTLY WHETHER OR NOT HE KEPT THE TITLE OF MINISTER). FINALLY, SMOLE THOUGHT THAT SHCHERBITSKIY MIGHT BE CHOSEN TO MOVE INTO THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN POSITION WITH KOSYGIN AND GROMYKO REMAINING WHERE THEY ARE.

5. SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. SMOLE NOTED THAT DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER RODIONOV HAD COMMENTED IN A POSITIVE MANNER ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S CHARLESTON SPEECH. SMOLE THEN ASKED FOR MY ASSESSMENT OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS IN WHICH BELGRADE WOULD BE INTERESTED AS THE TITO VISIT APPROACHES. I CALLED HIS ATTENTION TO THE PRESIDENT'S CHARLESTON SPEECH AS THE BEST AND MOST CANDID ASSESSMENT. I ALSO POINTED OUT

THAT IN MY OPINION THE PRESS HAD OVERPLAYED THE
DETERIORATION IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN
RECENT MONTHS. IN PARTICULAR THE PRESS FAILED TO
NOTE A WHOLE RANGE OF BILATERAL CONTACTS AND COOPERA-
TIVE VENTURES WHICH HAVE BEEN PROCEEDING IN A MORE
OR LESS NORMAL PATTERN DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES
IN SALT AND HUMAN RIGHTS. I NOTED IN PARTICULAR
THE KIRILLIN VISIT TO THE U.S. AND WARNKE'S CONSUL-
TATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS IN GENEVA, WASHINGTON AND
MOSCOW AS EXAMPLES OF ONGOING BILATERAL CONTACTS
WHICH ARE MOST USEFUL.

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